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WARTIME EXTENSION

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

More than 6,000 home gardeners enroll in radio garden school.
Average egg production in State increases from 85 to 121 in 10 years.
Home demonstration clubwomen help with problems of readjustment of servicemen and their families.
Extension furniture clinic instructs women in repair and renovation of furniture at home.

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KANSAS

October 12, 1944

Veterans' advisory service.- Information has been prepared to assist county agents and members of county agricultural advisory committee in being of service to returning veterans. New circular outlines agricultural opportunities in Kansas agriculture. It presents economic factors affecting agriculture, types of agriculture in different parts of Kansas, amount of capital required for farming, approximate costs and returns to be expected, ways to start farming, kinds and methods of leasing, and steps to take and pitfalls to avoid in buying a farm.

Poultry.- Emphasis has been placed on turkey program. District turkey meetings were held, covering State. At these meetings turkey embargo, price ceilings, production problems, and market outlook and its relation to general economic situation were discussed with growers, dealers, hatcherymen, and food manufacturers. Need was pointed out for cooperation of producers and packers in supplying turkeys required by armed forces. Price ceiling as well as premium permitted during embargo was explained so that producers would be acquainted with market situation and know how to take advantage of increase of prices. Organization of State turkey federation of all branches of industry was completed.

Contact was made with number of hatcheries in connection with poultry-improvement program for 1945 under National Poultry Improvement Plan. In 1944, 103 hatcheries with total capacity of 6,520,000 eggs and 3,236 flocks operated under national plan in Kansas. Program is supplying quality chick capable of efficient production and is given part of credit for increasing average egg production in State from 85 per hen in 1934 to 121 in 1943. Culling demonstrations were continued. Between July 1, 1943, and same date in 1944, number of hens in State was reduced from 13,050,000 to 12,450,000.

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Furniture conservation.- All-day furniture conservation clinic was conducted at Newton by extension specialist in home furnishings. Women from all over county, including 4-H home-improvement leaders, attended meeting. Each brought one or two pieces of furniture to repair. Specialist lectured on how to conserve furniture and renovate old pieces at home and demonstrated what to do with pieces of furniture brought in by women. She showed women how to reglue kitchen and dining-room chairs, how to repair box-cushion springs, and many other ways of putting furniture into good condition at home and making it last for duration of war. Survey of women present showed that many had not been inside a furniture store for 6 months to a year and did not know about extreme scarcity of furniture. Each representative of various clubs will return to her own unit and pass along information received at meeting.

4-H Club work.- Two outstanding 4-H Clubs were chosen as State winners in safety program. One of these clubs was awarded trip to American Royal 4-H Conference in Kansas City, Mo. 4-H safety work has done much to decrease number of accidents on farms.

Meat production has been one of goals of wartime work by club members in feed a fighter program. 4-H Fat Stock Show at Wichita provided opportunity for more than 300 club members to market their livestock. New feature was sale of 55 feeder calves to be used as 4-H projects next year.

Collection of milkweed pods has attracted considerable attention among club members in many counties. It received strong emphasis in a number of 4-H Clubs.

Activities connected with 4-H exhibits dealt more than before with wartime jobs of people on farms. For example, demonstration teams at State fair dealt with conservation of time and materials in such topics as "How to wash a separator in 2 minutes" and "Conservation of farm machinery through rust prevention."

TEXAS

October 1, 1944

Farm labor.- Reports to State farm labor office show 254,018 placements of farm labor by county agricultural agents during first 8 months of 1944. Placements included 61,948 boys and girls, of whom more than 90 percent were from towns and cities. Grand total included local men and women, many of whom were inexperienced in agriculture, men in military services, prisoners of war, and migrants. During first 7 months, 4,000 war prisoners were utilized in clearing brush, cutting cordwood, building fences, hoeing cotton and corn, baling hay, and harvesting vegetables and grain crops. Large part of Texas' allotment of war prisoners has been assigned to rice harvesting. To house them, growers this year invested \$100,000 in four camps, and an additional \$15,000 in facilities for four mobile-type camps. In addition, 50 communities in different parts of State raised funds for setting up camping and sanitary facilities for migrant workers. Total of 1,450 volunteer leaders aided in program. Farm leaders, despite pressure of their own business, contributed 5,638 man-days to help assure fair labor supply.

Besides placing workers, extension State labor office assisted in orderly routing of combines, trucks, tractors, and drivers to grain and sorghum harvest fields. September ended with acute shortage of cotton pickers in 4 counties of Brazos bottoms and about 15 counties in central and northern blackland areas. Shortage was

attributed to competition from west Texas, where migrants can make larger earnings pulling cotton, and indirectly to 3-week delay in planting in areas where labor shortage is most acute. Delay resulted in overlapping of maturity in central and west Texas areas. Consequently, migrant picking crews began moving westward well ahead of full maturity and picking in heaviest-producing areas. Meetings with county farm labor committees will be held to develop plans for mobilizing all possible labor, including nonfarm workers, to relieve crisis in counties affected.

Dairying.- Widespread rains forecast excellent small grain pastures for dairy cattle this fall and winter. Extension dairy husbandmen conducted intensive campaign through group meetings, press, and radio to promote preparation of soil and extensive sowing, so as to get greatest utilization of small grain pastures for fall and winter milk production. Recent survey of wheat-growing regions of central and west Texas showed that farmers have responded generously to educational work. With abundant pastures in prospect, supply of protein feeds is not likely to develop critical shortage.

Total of 160 registered heifers will be placed with Texas 4-H Club boys this year through cow-sow-hen program sponsored by Extension and financed by a mail-order concern. Dairy husbandmen assisted county agricultural agents in selecting animals. One will be awarded to club boy exhibiting first-prize gilt at each county fall pig show. Boy exhibiting grand champion boar at each district show also will be awarded a heifer. Continuation of program is expected to have marked influence upon improvement of dairy cattle in Texas.

Cotton.- Texas cotton-improvement planting seed program now has about 200 communities organized for one-variety cotton production. Objectives are lower cost of production, increased lint yield per acre, and better spinning quality of cotton.

Extension cotton gin specialist took part in 11 regional ginners' meetings, attended by 2,125 representatives of industry, in all parts of State except El Paso area. Purpose was to promote Extension program of better harvesting, handling, and ginning of staple, emphasizing wartime needs for strict middling and better grades, and conservation of gin equipment for duration of war.

Fall gardens.- Total of 6,143 home gardeners in 203 Texas counties and scattered applicants from 8 other States enrolled in Fall Garden School of the Air, which was conducted by Extension Service during September over State-wide radio network. School comprised eight lessons by horticulturists, entomologists, and food-preparation specialist. Each enrollee received by mail packet of six bulletins on fall gardening and food preparation, and outline of each broadcast. Outline was mailed to reach listeners a day or two ahead of broadcast and was so arranged that listeners could check answers to questions discussed and retain outline for reference. Majority of listeners sending in reports requested additional schools on poultry, spring gardening, food preparation and preservation, and fruit production. Several district agents are planning for county extension agents to conduct similar schools through regional radio stations.

4-H Club camps.- Series of 8 district 4-H Club camps attended by 1,250 boys ended in September. Outstanding club boys from coastal area to high plains were privileged to attend. Camp programs included swimming, baseball, rifle shooting, demonstrations in trapping, talks on wildlife and conservation, team demonstrations, grass identification, and inspirational talks.

Home demonstration women.- Members of Texas home demonstration clubs are becoming more aware of needs of families of service men and women. As babies of war brides grow older, mothers attend home demonstration club meetings more often, and efforts are being made to include them in community activities. In one county, Australian bride of American soldier (and young mother) joined local home demonstration club and brought her mother-in-law, who had not belonged to club. Clubs in many communities try to help families of soldiers reported missing or killed. Members of home demonstration clubs visit such families and find activities in which they may be interested. In many communities most returned discharged soldiers have been fitted into community activities. But clubs realize need for helping in readjustment when there are no longer jobs that can be filled by men physically below par.

Clothing conservation.- Hat clinics, dyeing of sweaters, and cleaning and pressing of woolen garments have been foremost among extension demonstrations in clothing. As result, women in 40 counties report usefulness of 14,148 garments and hats prolonged by cleaning and remodeling. Floyd County home demonstration clubwomen report cleaning 334 garments as result of demonstration, at saving to themselves of \$590. Medina County clubwomen cleaned 1,274 garments and 23 hats. In Howard County Mrs. B. A. Garner says she has saved her family \$75 by home cleaning and pressing. As aid to better pressing, clubwomen in State have added 374 ironing boards and 291 sleeveboards to their home equipment.

Home canning for servicemen.- Canning food for shipment to servicemen overseas is now established practice of Texas home demonstration clubwomen. They not only supply their own needs but sell canned fruit cake, meats, and other articles to urban people for shipment overseas. Practice stemmed from radio broadcast by extension specialist in food preservation and news release containing necessary instructions. Through late summer specialist had received more than 250 letters inquiring safest method of sending food to soldier relatives, and radio talk followed. Copies of script giving instructions were furnished to county home demonstration agents. Reports indicate agents have used this material in demonstrations, exhibits, newspaper stories, personal contacts, and in other useful ways.

Negro activities.- Matagorda County Negro agricultural agent recruited available farm labor in 10 rural communities and five urban centers to assist in harvest. Preachers, teachers, and Victory council leaders helped at 12 meetings to acquaint people with farm labor program. No crops in county have been lost. Total of 375 hands were sent to farms in McLennan County for general farm work, and 210 Negro laborers were recruited in Liberty County to harvest cotton and rice crops. Negro county agents in Chambers and Guadalupe Counties also did outstanding jobs in recruiting farm labor. Much interest in fall gardens is reported among rural and urban Negro families, and advice of Negro county agricultural agents has been sought freely. In Harrison County 150 fall garden demonstrators enrolled in Extension Service Garden Club of the Air. Three gardening demonstrations, attended by 13 families, were given in Hopkins County. These families indicated they would plant acre or more each of vegetables this fall. Sirup making is under way in Guadalupe County, where farmers own five sirup mills. Farm families in Roosevelt community report making 360 gallons of sirup, and Edd Barner of Alpha community, Dallas County, cooked 331 gallons in 1 month. Mike Coleman of Hardin community still is leading other Liberty County Negro farmers in producing watermelons. He planted 35 acres and reports receiving minimum of \$125 an acre for crop from 25 acres; remaining 10 acres were planted late. Two years ago Negro farmers in Liberty County did not grow enough melons for home use, but it is estimated this year's crop will bring them more than \$4,000. Coleman pioneered in demonstrating feasibility of growing melons in county.